

GARRETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT – September 2012
Month in Review

Adventure Sports Center International

1. The Board met with county staff to discuss core and strategic long term goals for ASCI. A summary of financial data and reporting of revenue and expenditures and discussion took place on sustainability. The consensus of those in attendance for this session was to schedule monthly meetings.
2. Approval from the Board to continue to waive real property tax for ASCI. The Board agreed to an abatement of all real property tax for Fiscal Year 2013 and all future years.

Department of Economic Development

James Hinebaugh, Director, Department of Economic Development announced his retirement from County Government to be effective on October 1, 2012. On this date the Board publically recognized the progress and growth the County has experienced over the years Mr. Hinebaugh served.

Community Action Committee

1. Presentation of Annual Report for the Board.
2. Area on Aging Director presented information on Senior and Food Services and the annual Area on Aging Plan.

Legislative Issues

1. The Board and a number of department heads and senior management staff discussed 2013 legislative initiatives that may be approved and presented for consideration to the Maryland General Assembly. These included:
 - a) Discussion enabling legislation to prohibit the sale of bath salts. County Health Officer indicated that the mandate for this in GC was not required but Chairman Raley wanted to go on record as having the Board address this and remain vigilant.
 - b) Bonding authority on behalf of GC Memorial Hospital for construction and renovation projects.
 - c) Enabling legislation to establish setbacks, height, size, location, and decommissioning for wind turbines. Mr. Getty reminded the Board that they had this authority through land use authority.
 - d) Marcellus Shale Committee had requested that the Board secure legislative authority to bond County roads for damage from drilling activity.
 - e) Discussion on a number of proposed tax credits to include green buildings, stormwater management, public utility service area accounts, and other tax incentives to spur development and economic growth to include a bundling of incentives.
 - f) Extension Service provided incentives related to agriculture and farming.
 - g) Commissioner Crawford asked if the County could establish a local tax incentive program similar to the One Maryland program which the County is no longer eligible.
 - h) Legislative authority to establish franchise agreements with cable companies. Mr. Getty will research this matter and advise.

Department of Planning & Land Development

The Board conducted a *Public Hearing* on August 20, 2012 to review and take public comment on a proposal to update and re-adopt the GC Building Code Ordinance to assure compliance with the MD Building Performance Standards. The Board determined to extend the public commentary record open until the end of business on August 31, 2012. The Board approved a motion to enact the 2012 International Residential Code, the 2012 International Building Code and the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code with all local amendments including the local amendments to delete the requirement for automatic fire sprinkler systems in one and two family dwellings and to delete the stairway geometry requirements in the new codes and revert to the steeper dimensions allowed in previous code cycles prior to 2009.

Department of Public Utilities

1. The Board met with representative with the Mountainside Homeowners Association who requested some relief on the Ad Valorem tax for the cost of easements and right-of-way located within this development. The Association is requesting consideration based upon the significant economic and supply contribution Mountainside has made to the Thayerville Water System
2. The Board appointed Roger Gower and Kevin Tasker to the position of maintenance worker.

Purchasing Department

1. Dump Truck. The Board approved a bid award to Timbrook Ford for \$62,652.00.
2. GC Water and Sewer Master Plan. The Board approved a bid award to Environmental Resource Management for \$99,943.00. Final Plan completed by October 2013.
3. The Board approved a Declaration of Surplus County Property – GC Airport Standing Timber. The Purchasing Department will administer and solicit the sealed bid process for the disposition of this property.
4. Maple Street Wastewater System Extension. The Board approved an award to Winters General Contractor, Inc. for Alternative 2 – Directional Drilling at \$175,600.00.

Miscellaneous

1. The Board executed the following Proclamations for September 2012 - "National Payroll Week" as the first full week of September; Garrett County Alcohol and Recovery Month"
2. GC Board of Elections briefed the Board on the notice on early voting and ongoing voter registration for the November 2012 Election, information on preparation for the November 6, 2012 Election to include 7 questions for the electorate to consider on the ballot and election Judges training is ongoing.
3. GC Chamber of Commerce presented the Board updates on the following organizational matters: Heritage Area Plan, Autumn Glory timeline and dates, and Presentation and summary report of the Chamber Marketing Plan..
4. The Board reappointed the following persons to the GC Adult Guardianship Review Board: Stewart Callis, Karl Schwalm, Thomas Dabney, Jr., Michael Dennis, Norma Bolding and Adina Brode
5. The Board reviewed appointments on the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland. The Board appointed Jerry Merrick to replace Mr. Hinebaugh on the Revolving Loan Fund Committee and Jerry Humberson will fulfill the unexpired term of Jeff McCauley on the Council.
6. The Board attended the Chamber of Commerce Business Before Hours at Wisp Resort.
7. The Board attended a ribbon cutting/opening ceremony for the Visitor's Center Trail.
8. The Board executed a Proclamation designating September 17 to 23, 2012 as "Constitution Week".
9. The Board approved the Board of Education Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2013 to 2019.
10. The Board appointed Alex Mellot to the Emergency Services Board to represent the GC Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.
11. The Board addressed financial matters to include an agreement to restrict funds from the unassigned fund balance.

12. The Board discussed the feasibility of defining a "No Hotel Rental Tax Day" for a to be determined day during the off-season.
13. The Board reviewed the installation and importance of a video recording system in the Board's public meeting room.